



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

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MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date and Time of Meeting: June 18, 2015
12:00 p.m.

Carson City: Aging and Disability Services Division
3416 Goni Road, Building I
Carson City, NV 89706

*Please note that some of the agenda items were discussed out of order.

- I. Ms. Crandy called the meeting for the Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders to order at 12:03 p.m.

Members Present: Jan Crandy, Mary Liveratti, Korri Ward, Shannon Crozier, Keri Altig

Guests: Julie Ostrovsky, Mark Olson, Stephanie Christensen, Erin Snell, Brenda Bledsoe, Martha Schott-Bernius, Linda Tache

Staff Present: Brook Adie, Julie Kotchevar, Carol Reitz, Thomas Kapp, Megan Wickland

A quorum was declared.

- II. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item)

Ms. Crandy informed the Commission that there is a Medicaid provider rates workshop scheduled for July 1st at 9:00 a.m. It is at the Grant Sawyer Building in Las Vegas and in room 2135 of the Legislative Counsel Bureau in Carson City.

Ms. Crandy welcomed Crossroads as a new ATAP (Autism Treatment Assistance Program) provider since they were attending the Commission meeting.

III. Approval of the Minutes from the May 21, 2015 Meeting

Ms. Liveratti made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2015 meeting with the changes noted. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IV. Review and Approve Updates to the 2015 Objectives to the Five-Year Strategic Plan

Ms. Reitz informed the Commission that the information that Ms. Crandy provided on the Governor's Report was used to update the grid. She added that she will send the updated grid out to everyone. Ms. Crandy suggested having the Commission update the grid quarterly.

V. Review and Approve the Report to Governor Sandoval Due June 2015

Ms. Crandy went through the report with the Commission. There were additions and changes noted to the report.

Ms. Crandy asked the Commission whether they wanted to use the Department of Education number that was reported to her a few days prior of 5,946 or whether they would rather use the 6,217 that was used in the strategic plan and was reported in August 2014. They agreed the 6,217 number should be used since that was the last official number that was reported. She added they are waiting for the new numbers which will be reported in August of 2015.

Ms. Crandy told the Commission she wanted the number of children under the age of three that are on the waitlist for ATAP added to the report.

Ms. Crandy asked if there was an estimated wait time for children under the age of three to be served under ATAP. Mr. Kapp told the Commission that what was decided is once the child gets the secondary confirmed diagnosis from a licensed psychologist or medical doctor that is when they will be referred to ATAP. It is not just upon failing the ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule). Ms. Kotchevar told the Commission that in order for the children under the age of three to be served under ATAP, it is not tied to Medicaid. She added they are finalizing the policy that week for all the co-served children which will be shared with the Commission. She also said it is their hope to transition them to ATAP if the family chooses it so there is no break in treatment when they turn three.

Ms. Crandy asked if they should include that information in this Governor's Report or wait until the report in December. Ms. Kotchevar suggested waiting until December so they will have actual data to report.

A conversation was held in regards to the numbers that were due to ADSD by August 31st. It was decided that a more in-depth reporting would be provided in the December report to the Governor.

Ms. Ward told the Commission that the update for Objective 2.3.2 should read, “Ms. Ward is working with Rural Regional Center, VocRehab and Nevada Small Business Development Center to develop small business entrepreneurship run by adults with disabilities in Rural Nevada.” She said all the entities are coming together to make it work since collaboration can be difficult.

Dr. Crozier suggested adding the two commissioners to the paragraph that states three of the commissioners would be stepping down.

Ms. Crandy asked how many RBT (Registered Behavior Technician) access codes had been given out. Ms. Reitz reported there were roughly 122 codes given out as of that day.

Ms. Crandy reported there were 65 CABIs (Certified Autistic Behavior Interventionist) when they went to Legislation and there are currently 19 RBTs in Nevada.

VI. Update on Online RBT Training Offered Through UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Dr. Crozier informed the Commission that the training has soft-launched. This means that ATAP, whom has purchased 500 participant slots, has started issuing the codes to interventionists. She added a few other providers have contacted UNLV to purchase a few codes. They are keeping it at a soft open at the present time, so it does not have a public access site yet.

Ms. Crandy asked if anyone had completed the full 40 hours of training. Dr. Crozier said no. Ms. Crandy asked if the glitches have been addressed and Dr. Crozier said they had been.

Ms. Crandy asked how many people have signed up to date. Dr. Crozier said about 175 people are active. Ms. Ward asked about working with Nevada Job Connect. Dr. Crozier said they haven’t had time yet to start the conversations. She also added that they are not a DETR (Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation) provider yet which needs to occur before they can make it accessible to them.

Ms. Crandy asked Ms. Kotchevar if Objective 2.1 read correctly. Ms. Kotchevar said all ATAP and EI personnel are collocating to improve services.

Ms. Crandy asked if there were any updates to NvLEND (Nevada Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities). Ms. Schott-Bernius suggested adding information about the annual NvLEND Summit which was held in March. Ms. Reitz said she would contact Dr. Vigil to get the number of attendees for the Summit. Ms. Crandy suggested adding the projects that each trainee is working on. Ms. Schott-Bernius suggested adding the NvLEND collaboration with the Department of Education to add the sixth year to the Milestone Booklet. Ms. Crandy said they will add that to the December report.

Ms. Crandy asked about the ADOS training. Ms. Bledsoe informed the Commission that the first session of the training is scheduled for the following Thursday and Friday. She informed the Commission that there were 38 community and state providers registered who will obtain CEUs for the training. She added that the following session would be held in July on the 9th and 10th in Las Vegas.

The Commission decided they would accept all of the suggestions and changes that were noted and requested that they receive a final product of the Governor's Report.

VII. Follow-Up on ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) Inclusion in the EHB (Essential Health Benefits) for the Insurance Exchange

Ms. Crandy informed the Commission that she attended the Insurance Exchange meeting in Las Vegas. She reported the insurance plans that are sold on the Exchange look at which health plan they will follow for their base plan for 2017. She said they re-evaluate to determine which plan they will use and look at the 2014 plans to decide which plans to utilize for 2017. She said the Division of Insurance has to file on July 1st as to which plan they will choose. She added she believes they are looking at the small insurance plans which all have ABA coverage: Some of them define ABA coverage differently such as 250 visits per year or 750 hours per year. Some define it as \$36,000 per year. She added that she and Jon Sasser voiced the opinion that they would chose the PEBP (Public Employees' Benefits Program) plan since it had a \$36,000 cap and by law you can't have that.

Ms. Crandy said they also voiced that they would like them to pick that plan so the children will not have caps. She said that Mr. Sasser had sent the Division of Insurance information showing that it would not cost the State more money to have an uncapped benefit which has been done before. She said they agreed and they did not believe it was a new mandate if they went ahead and did that. She said they did not tell them which plan they will choose. The transgender group wanted the PEBP since it provided more coverage. She added they wanted to make sure the plans that they choose

have the \$72,000 per year cap since they were looking at the plans from 2014 to decide on the plan for 2017.

Ms. Liveratti informed the Commission that the Governor's office was contacted in regards to the Executive Order and it was expressed that the request should come through the Department. She said she spoke to Ms. Gruner as well as Mr. Whitley and they had no problem going forward with reissuing the Executive Order.

Ms. Liveratti also informed the Commission of the signing ceremony for AB6. She said since it was passed right at the end of Legislature, the Governor's office said it would be fine after the legislative session ended. She said the Commission would be looking at holding the signing in August at the earliest. She will call them back in July and keep them informed. She had told the Governor's office that they can hold the signing in the North or the South but needed lead time to set it up. Ms. Crandy added that Autism Speaks would like to have a representative present for the signing. Ms. Liveratti suggested rolling out the Executive Order as well as the bill signing together.

Ms. Liveratti thanked everyone for being at Legislation this year. She said they were really visible this year and worked hard to get everything through. She said since it was her last meeting, she wanted to thank everyone. Ms. Crandy said she echoed the sentiments and it was a great year. She added she didn't think it would be Ms. Liveratti's last meeting and reminded everyone that you have to keep serving until you're replaced. Ms. Ostrovsky said everything was very well done since they embraced the community and they embraced them back.

Ms. Liveratti suggested to the Commission that if planned discussions are held with Insurance Companies, they need to be done as early as possible. They are very powerful. Ms. Crandy said Keith Lee, one of the main lobbyists, suggested getting together to start working on what the Commission wants. She added there are still a lot of barriers and problems with insurance. Ms. Liveratti said they are very aware of the changes happening on the federal level coming out of Medicare and Medicaid and very much want to talk earlier rather than later before Legislature meets again.

Ms. Crandy told the Commission that they really need to advocate for Medicaid to define autism as a mental health issue so it will lose the requirement for preauthorization and start treatment faster. It will also lead to lifting off the cap on private insurance.

Dr. Crozier asked about the issue with HPN (Health Plan of Nevada) regarding the requirement for kids to be evaluated by a neuropsychologist before they start service. She said she was asked recently if there were other insurance companies that have similar barriers in terms of restricting the

professionals. She asked the Commission if anyone else knew if there were any other insurance companies that were as restrictive as HPN. Ms. Crandy said they were the only ones as far as she knows. She added there are not enough neuropsychologists.

Ms. Crandy informed the Commission that the Managed Care provider rate meeting was coming up. She said questions needed to be asked about the fee-for-service which is mostly for the rural areas; Clark and Washoe Counties will have Managed Care overseeing them. She said they will be negotiating their own rates which are typically less than the fee-for-service rates. She said Managed Care providers are HPN and Amerigroup.

Ms. Kotchevar informed the Commission that she had asked Medicare the previous day about Managed Care and they told her that Managed Care typically pays a percentage to the provider of what the fee-for-service rate is. Dr. Crozier said that it was a massive problem since providers are not convinced of signing up with the current rates. She said if it isn't disclosed what the Managed Care rates will be, no one will sign up.

Ms. Kotchevar said Medicare does not have control over Managed Care. They will establish the rates and are not required to be transparent about them. She added that Managed Care providers are not allowed to discuss the rates. Each provider negotiates with Amerigroup and HPN.

Dr. Crozier asked if a provider goes through the enrollment process to become a fee-for-service provider, if they automatically become a Managed Care provider. Ms. Kotchevar said they must go through the fee-for-service enrollment before they become a Managed Care provider. She added it does not obligate them to provide to Medicaid clients. She said they are not required to serve people if they go through the process.

Ms. Crandy asked if the provider signed up for Medicaid, if they would be placed on a list that families will be provided. She added that providers would have to turn people away if they are not happy with the rates.

Ms. Crandy asked if there was a lot of credentialing in the process of becoming a Medicaid provider. Ms. Kotchevar said providers have to go through the fee-for-service first and then they can enroll with Managed Care.

Ms. Crandy asked what the recourse would be for providers that enroll and don't accept the Medicaid reimbursement rates. She added that it would inflate the number of providers that are shown but they wouldn't necessarily be accepting Medicaid. Ms. Kotchevar said that is an existing Medicaid problem that is beyond covering ABA therapy for autism. She added that it is up to Medicaid to make sure the Managed Care organizations are providing enough access in order to maintain the Medicaid contract with the State.

Ms. Crandy said she thinks that providers will probably feel misled when they find out about the Managed Care rates being less than the fee-for-service rates that are being discussed. Ms. Crandy advised the Commission that Jon Sasser and Barbara Buckley fought for all of Medicaid to be fee-for-service.

Mr. Olson told the Commission that in his professional and personal opinion, Managed Care is a disaster. He suggested following what other national groups such as Autism Speaks and Access are doing which is for the Commission to be gathering and reporting back the real-world barriers of what families are not getting and what providers aren't able to do. He said if it is a Medicaid issue, it goes back through DHCFP (Department of Healthcare Finance and Policy).

Ms. Crandy asked Ms. Kotchevar if there was discussion about ATAP being the provider for everyone and Medicaid in turn would reimburse ATAP. Dr. Crozier said Medicaid is used to negotiating and working with large providers who have a diverse multi-stream revenue system. She added that ABA providers are not like that and will not roll the same way as other Medicaid providers. Ms. Crandy added they'll have providers who join but will only provide parent trainings and not supervise RBTs which will look like they are providing services but are not able to provide comprehensive services.

VIII. Public Comment

(No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide secretary with written comments.)

Ms. Crandy said the next meeting should be after all the reports are due from VocRehab and the School Districts. It was decided that the next meeting should be September 9th at 12:00 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

Ms. Crandy adjourned the meeting at 1:26 p.m. |